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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7413
INFO RUEH2M/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHBNR/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RHMFSS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001033

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SINGH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/15/2017

TAGS: **PGOV PHUM ASEC CASC BA**

SUBJECT: SHI'A YOUTH IN WEEKEND SKIRMISHES WITH SECURITY
FORCES

REF: A. MANAMA 198

1B. MANAMA 950

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: Last Spring's pattern of small clashes on weekend nights between Shi'a youth and police has resumed with the return of cooler weather.
- 2.(SBU) Each weekend since October 26 small gangs in impoverished Shi'a areas have set tires alight after dark and thrown rocks at police vehicles.
- 3.(C) Post contacts in the Shi'a community say the renewed clashes have taken place near the villages of Jid Hafs, Sanabis, Karzakan, Dain, Sitra.
- 4.(C) Bahraini authorities and some Shi'a establishment contacts dismiss the rock-throwers as young men seeking weekend excitement. Shura Council.
- 5.(C) On one occasion, the youth violence may have had a political link: contacts in the Shi'a community and in the security services both told
- 6.(C) An internet site, Aafaq, carried a report of "violent clashes" in the Sitra area on November 8. The Aafaq site lists the dissolved Bahraini.
- 7.(SBU) E-mails are circulating among Shi'a with photos of unmarked government security vehicles and their license plates. The e-mails proclaim
- 8.(C) Comment: The recent incidents fall somewhere between juvenile delinquency and the venting of pent-up frustrations within the Shi'a community.